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COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

NEW YORK AND PARIS FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

The Model Wife—A Sentence that Was Like a Tolled Church—and Four Copes Antiquated Economy of the Modern Dress—Fancy Costumes—Fashion and Fancies.

From our Fashion Correspondent.

NEW YORK, January, 1869.

I have always believed in model wives. I am a model wife myself, that is to say, I like marketing, mend the stockings after everybody has gone to bed, forget people don't wipe their feet on the door mat—but comparatively few of all the dear mad—but responsible little girls of my acquaintance, and there are many, are model wives. Some are pretty, some are fashionable, some can play the piano rather than hear it cry.

But the fact is, the time has gone by for the exercise of such negative virtues, they are not appreciated. Husbands hold up the model wife as an example to their pretty, captivating little darlings who tyrannize over them, but they would not exchange them for the world.

The difficulty is that the model wife is encumbered with her many excellences, she is the world's Martha—forever troubled about many things, and it makes her exceedingly disagreeable.

She expects her husband to realize that because he possesses in her, and he never does, he is willing to see the good things which she places upon the table, but he never considers for anything more than a hasty glance and the cookery is his compliments and the charm of his conversation for the pretty, careless wife of his neighbor, who never made a shirt or a pudding in her life, and rarely knows her mistress's washerwoman by sight, is the delight of every dinner party.

There is a multitude of unthinking, careless women, and on account of them in the main, the world is not so bad as it seems, that surpasses that of schools.

CHANGE COMES OVER EVERYTHING.

It is certainly true that the modern chief walking suit has revolutionized fashion. A feminine fire siege, or school closet, one or the other, was formerly deemed indispensable to the genuine existence of a lady, and many possessed the crown of many a woman's ambition. Now in comparison with a handsome, well made suit, they look antiquated, and it is a matter of no consequence. Those upon the shelves are becoming to the present style of dress, and those belonging to the past are not in the immediate way of getting them next.

The chief suit is very economical, inconsequential to suit the dressmakers, who complain that it has cut off half their receipts, because it requires no trimming, and the material is cut and folded even and shapely by being stowed in certain folds, and after that several months in season, and after that several months in a second season.

Then, costly velvet is thrown over upon a suit. The English waterproof looks about as well on such a suit and for foliage, and paid twice as much as velvet, and is as much in demand.

Was there ever a time before, in the history of the world, when all sorts of colors, materials or shapes were in vogue at the same time? Is there ever to be such a time again? Even a sufficient quantity of calling cards to last one a year, and a sufficient number to make two caps of the most ruffled, flounced and furbelowed description, and a sufficient quantity of cambric to make two dozen handkerchiefs, having come over through duty, having come over in the trunks of returning travelers, are no longer to be found in a city of a million souls.

Fancy is at its best now in selecting a dress suit, and the most extravagant and the most economical can indulge their fancies to the full extent of their purses, and no one will be shocked by which we choose. Even a sufficient quantity of cambric wherewith to make two caps of the most ruffled, flounced and furbelowed description, and a sufficient number

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, February 6, 1869.

Weekly Commercial.

SOME STARTLING FACTS.

In the annual report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools, it is stated that there are at least 25,000 children, of school age, in Pennsylvania, whose education may be said to be totally neglected. In Philadelphia a census was taken, last year, of all the children between the ages of six and eighteen years, and it was found that out of about 100,000 children between those ages, over 20,000 attended neither public nor private schools. A similar census was ordered to be taken in this city, but the work has not yet been completed. It is believed, however, that quite as large a proportion of children attend no school here as in Philadelphia. Here is an important field for practical educational step. Statistics show that crime, pauperism and degradation increase in proportion as the masses are ignorant, and diminish as society becomes educated and enlightened. What is the duty of the State towards those unfortunate children? is a question which involves considerations of the highest importance. The design of our system of free schools is that we may have, within the reach of all the means of education, which will render impossible the existence of such a class as we have here. It is the opinion that all those could themselves the children of parents who are not able to pay for the education of their children should be educated at the public expense. The number of children who are not being educated at all, on assumptions above mentioned have been ordered in the principal cities. The result of the census in Philadelphia is, in the language of the State Superintendent, "very startling." Twenty thousand children not at school in that city—half of them another storm thousand are between the ages of six and twelve, thus showing that they are not at work. If ignorance is the parent of crime, who can hope to see the number of criminals diminish in our houses of refuge, jails, work houses and penitentiaries, while seventy-five thousand children in the State are left to grow up in idleness, and without education? From this class of uneducated children, the largest proportion of criminals and paupers is furnished, and some means should be devised for lessening these properly interested. To get these children gathered into the public schools, and teach them the proper use of books, is a work which should engage the attention of Legislators and Philanthropists of every shade of social opinion. Compulsory education may not be the most desirable remedy, but it would be profitable to criminal negligence in the training of so large a proportion of the youth of this Commonwealth.

A DOUBLE PUZZLE.

It is hoped it is not too much to believe that Congress will get more sufficient time from railroad subsidy bills to give some to the friends of free navigation. We are not of the class who raise a thing in preference to the cost. We prefer rather to be found with those who make the most of small forces. When nature provides so much, we would not ignore her claims upon our gratitude. A few millions expended for the improvement of our rivers at the present time would prove more profitable than many times the amount on railways. There is scarcely a navigable stream in the country that is not interfered with more or less by railway bridges. When the right of way has been once secured, nothing is more common than to find railways adopting a policy positively and flagrantly injurious to navigation. In numerous instances that we could mention, the needless obstructions created by railway bridges, have destroyed all the advantages which nature has given to a city of the amount they have injured the interests of others. In many instances an insane hostility to navigation is openly avowed.

We cannot through ignorance, but great selfish, bridge after water courses, and bring the oceans, as to speak, within a few days' journey of each other, we achieve results that are more than any one who has the faintest idea the future glory of the nation at heart, would wish to lessen. Every mile of a new road will create a new market, and a new additional evidence of our progress in developing the resources of the country. The locomotive, as it passes from valley to valley beneath the mountains, crossing rivers, skirting lakes, meeting plains, may be compared to the shuttle in the weaver's hand, adding to every movement back and forth, a fresh woof to the web of progress. But the shuttle by free of obstruction. We do not desire to see a single web broken. We object to neither bridges, tunnels nor trestles. We cannot have too many of them. At the same time let us not neglect the facilities for rivals provided by nature.

There is a steadily increasing disposition to disparage navigation, to ignore its claims, to conceal and destroy the most obvious advantages she holds out to us. What is more common at this day than to hear a railway and a river in the same valley? The locomotive darts ahead of the steamboat, crosses and recrosses, at every fresh crossing is an additional obstruction. On the Mississippi, the Tennessee, the Ohio, the Susquehanna, the Hudson—in every considerable water course in the country, the track and the locomotive obstructs navigation needlessly. In some instances the cases are to all intents and purposes caused by railway bridges. In the Upper Mississippi, at Rock Island, with the current, the steamers are subjected to extraordinary risks. The same causes operate against steamboats on the Tennessee. On the Ohio, there is a span at Steubenville about three hundred and seventy feet in the clear, but one of the piers is placed so as to interfere with floating craft. Never at home we have a net work of bridges between Pittsburgh and Allegheny, the terror of everything that floats, and frequently in collision with the calculations of the most experienced steamboat pilots. These evils are a present to every one who will take the trouble to examine the matter.

Let us look at the result of this neglect of the facilities afforded by nature, taking the valley of the Ohio for an example. One of Pittsburgh's greatest resources is her coal. It is not unusual for the coal merchants of our city to ship two and a-half million bushels at a single shipment. Fleets of barges, one abreast, sometimes more, seldom less, are towed down to the lower markets of the Ohio and Mississippi by powerful steamers. It not unfrequently happens that the pilot of the utmost experience of those having charge of them, numbers of those barges are wrecked upon the bridge piers. This has become so frequent of late that the grave occasion more concern than all the rest of the perils of navigation. Thus the bottom of the Ohio may be said to be covered with coal as the result of wrecks. In former years fleets of coalboats were fastened together and floated down. That day has passed, however. The coal interest of Pittsburgh has suffered immense losses within the last few years solely on account of the additional obstructions placed in the channel by the building of bridges. Other interests have suffered in proportion to the amount of traffic involved. The lumber interest of the Allegheny has suffered extraordinary losses from the same cause.

This history may be said to be the history of all the large rivers in the country. We understand that a number of Western steamboatmen, and others interested in river navigation, are at Washington looking after the interests of unobstructed navigation. We hope their gives will attract the attention of Congress, and that not only will the unconstitutional attack against be prohibited, but due provision made for the construction of long spans in such a manner as not to interfere with navigable channels. Not only the width of the spans should be taken into consideration, but their location, otherwise legislation on this notice will fall short of its true and most important object.

ANOTHER CONSIDERATION.

Next to Brazil's proposition to issue a paper dollar worth less than the cost of printing it, commend us to the memorial of W. E. M. Baxter, of Philadelphia, which is a curious document in many respects. It proposes that paper money be a blessing to the working man, and attains that the necessity which brought in greenbacks brought out still benefits to the cause of labor. Mr. Baxter was employed to draw up the memorial of the Labor Reform League of New England, and this is the result of his lucubrations. He may be perfectly honest in his views, but his perceptive faculties must be limited in their operations. His argument has neither facts nor history to support it. If he can adduce a single instance where the working classes have been permanently benefited by an inflation of the currency, he will confer a favor upon a large number of people who are seeking just such information. If he can prove that they have not invariably been actual losers by an inflation of the currency, he will confer a similar favor upon those who only lack this important data to confirm them in their belief that an abundance of paper money benefits everybody. If Mr. Baxter will take the trouble to calculate what proportion of a skilled mechanic's week's wages is required to buy a barrel of flour, or to pay a month's rent, and compare it with the proportion required twelve, ten or six years ago, he will be very apt to change his mind, and perhaps conclude that the blessings of inflation are so thoroughly disguised that the honest vision fails to perceive them.

A PERIOD OF SUSPENSE.

It is pleasant to know that, as a matter of fact, applicants for office under the new administration are so slow in Washington—not that there has been any material change in the country concerning office holding in general, but because of the uncertainty in what manner to approach the appointing power. Up to this time many applications accumulate, unassorted and with confidence were denied, owing to the unexpected uncertainties, to hand off. No doubt General Grant regards as unseemly and altogether to be discouraged the crowding of office seekers on such occasions, giving neither time nor opportunity, even when the desire exists, to ascertain the qualifications of applicants. General Grant comes in at a peculiar moment. He has special work on hand and requires skilled workmen. There is far less need now than usual for common labor, so to speak, a fact, we suspect, that has caused some at least to decide either to wait awhile or not apply at all. All such, we think, have done wisely. Still the sign hangs out—skilled workmen, who can bring the highest recommendations, wanted, none others need apply. Applicants of this class need not stand back. The logic of the thing, however, is not that nobody who has held an office and knows from official experience what the public service requires need apply—quite the reverse. We have no idea that General Grant is going to make the first half of his administration a school of practice.

THE CANVASS FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP of the House of Representatives is becoming quite animated in Washington, it having settled down to a contest between Mr. Blaine, of Maine, (whose place of authority, we believe, is not far from Pittsburgh, on the Monongahela river,) and Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts. By certain New England organs, especially Massachusetts men, Blaine is opposed more vigorously than he would be but for the persistency with which he, as the head of the Maine delegation in the last Congress, manipulated to defeat Mr. Dawes for Vice President, whereby a union of the New England delegation as it is maintained, on Senator Wilson was prevented. Such concentration, it was thought by many at the time, and not a few still believe, would have changed the result in the convention on Vice President. Something of the feeling then engendered is still left, and mixed up with the question of the Speakership, though we are assured that the contest is being conducted with the utmost good feeling on both sides. Of the several New England members it is said Dawes will have all but two, but Blaine is said to lead his opponent in the west, where the Chicago experience is probably not forgotten.

An exchange says:

Business men of our readers will rub their eyes and pinch the nose to assure themselves that they are awake when they regard a second or a third time before they will be satisfied that their eyesight does not deceive them. They will be reminded of the time when the "Democrats" manufactured everything in the form of a campaign document, from a "coon skin cap" and "an infallible sign of weakness." In those days British "monuments" were made of every possible thing but monuments, or a coalition of Democrats and Rebels with Lincoln's "international obligations" never interfered with the prosecution of her selfish ends. In anger were the leaders of the English people to take advantage of the temporary difficulties of our country, they would not rest one on the "unconstitutional" of a "high spirited people." It is believed that John Bull views the Alabama claims through gold-colored spectacles, and that he is not to be "provoked to a war on the "issue of alleviety."

United States and Cuba.

The proposition of the unofficial agent of the Cuban revolution at Washington in the subject of frequent comment. Round to see from the island is highly favorable to his mission. It is asserted that the feeling in favor of annexation is almost universal, and that the people of the island would be unanimously, at least, on the part of our government, in daily growing stronger. Everything favors a people wrestling to escape the yoke of European domination. The fact that the insurrection is in addition of the news that Spain has refused to cede Cuba to the United States on any terms. The agent of the Cubans presents a strong plea. With the aid of the United States the people of Cubans will acquire a moral aid sufficient to secure their object. At the same time the United States cannot in that case be met by the Spanish government as a case for filling out letters of marque and issuing commissions. The revolutionists have now been fighting four months. They have been gaining ground steadily. Already one-half of the island is in their possession. Thus far they have displayed only such military qualities as the occasion demanded. The chief question has been unsettled strictly. They have an army of 40,000 men, half of whom are well armed, the remainder with machetes. Many of the latter have taken upon their own skill in fashioning weapons, ammunition. Already they have the sympathy of the mass of the American people in their struggle. In addition to all this, the Cubans have in a weightier argument in the fact that Cuba has been paying annually to the Crown of Spain for a period unknown to the "oldest inhabitant," a round ten millions of dollars, in addition to the support of the entire army and navy employed on the island, the Cubans will soon secure the resignation of the government.

Diplomatic Bickering.

In the beginning of the Spanish revolution, Mr. Perry, wife of the Secretary of Legation, was guilty of the indiscretion of smuggling a number of proclamations of the revolutionists. The meeting was called to discuss the question of women suffrage. Mrs. Perry was president of the meeting, and was accused of the proclamations. The meeting broke up early and was commented on at the time. Recently John P. Hale, United States Minister to Spain, wrote a lengthy letter to a member of Congress, and for which he received a complimentary reference to Mr. Perry and secretary to reward. It appears from this letter that Mrs. Perry is a Spanish woman. Between the lines of the letter of Mr. Perry, it seems that Mr. Hale is kept very busy in attending to small part of the statements made by Mr. Hale on time, the conduct of Mr. Perry, who is said to be under the influence of his wife, has been most satisfactory. He has kept out of the agitation to operate largely in stocks, and in such a manner as to bring discredit not only upon himself, but upon the American Government. Mr. Hale presents an array of facts and figures official to show that Mr. Perry has been in addition to his stock speculations, he availed himself of Mr. Hale's temporary absence to carry his place as Minister, on the other hand, Mrs. Perry charges Mr. Hale with gross neglect of his duties and business. The charges elicited a letter from Seward to our Minister requesting him to resign. Mr. Hale intimates that the secretary of State is interested in the Spanish "jobs" planned by Perry, and thus the matter stands at present.

The United States and St. Domingo.

The proposition to annex St. Domingo, we are assured, is based upon something stronger than a mere notion. The change of sentiment in favor of annexation is said to be rapidly gaining a predominance over the Island Republic in the West Indies, will be regarded as extraordinary. San Domingo opposition enemy to annexation, but the opposition is said to amount to vote, when it was promptly buried. Now we have the question opened anew by Judge Orth, of Indiana. Judge Orth submitted a resolution providing for the annexation of St. Domingo, which was laid on the table by a vote of one hundred and ten to sixty-two. Surely, Judge Orth's committee was simply the preparation way by submitting it. Domingo as a new State, in conformity to the Constitution of the United States, with the approval of Congress. The people of St. Domingo have expressed themselves favorable to the proposition, and if the Administration of the Island of the Caribbean Sea continues the future of the West Indies is forgotten. It is further hinted that there is something in the air to indicate that the question at this time is not "wrangling we shall buy them or protect them, but whether we will take them for nothing." Judge Orth expresses the belief that he will experience little difficulty in securing the passage of his resolution when the question comes up again.

Sunday in New Lisbon.

Mr. Sunday has embarked in a new and perilous business. Judging from the tone of his last epistle, it is his times more commendable than the ultramontane institution he presided over in the days of his prosperity. Since the decline of the Southern "institute" oppressed the old Postmaster even more than the loss of his office. He has been no more the target for "slings of disgust," and wallowed so deeply in the mire of degradation that life became unbearable to him. In the nick of time his attention was attracted to the claims of San Sunday, when he obtained a glimpse at a plan to secure his fortune. Instead of the ministry being run on the principle as obtain upon the "corner," since which time his success has been unparalleled. With a retaining fee of ten dollars a head, and the entire custody of the "organs," he is never more on the high tide of success. Those who bestowed honors and pecuniary upon their unfortunate brethren are promised payment of all claims, including claims based upon the suggestion that they have conformed by the miscarriages of the rebellion. Elated with his extraordinary success, he contemplates entering into a business partnership with Mrs. Cain, We fear Joe Bigler will interfere as usual with his plans.

The latest fad story comes to us from Montpelier, a city of Vermont, the capital of which is all descriptions. They caught a catfish down there weighing one hundred and thirty-seven pounds. Inside his catship, inclosed in a tin membrane in his stomach was a silver watch, a pocket knife, and a jackknife. Now this are as true as to account for the phenomena. We experience no difficulty in believing in the one hundred and thirty-seven pounds, but our faith is not equal to the swallowing of the iron. Fish don't generally contain quite as large a percentage of iron in their composition. A small lime-rod would sound more probable. To argue that the monster was a gunboat fish don't help the matter. Gunboat fish, like graduations, generally feed on the best of provender.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Once a Hat, an English periodical, lately informed the readers that John Brown, who was hung in Virginia in 1859, for conspiring to excite a negro insurrection, was a negro.

The following is a favorite song with ex-Confederates:

"I want to be a rebel,
And with the rebels stand—
Be commanded by Lamb,
And get back all my land."

The Crown Prince of Austria, says a correspondent, who recently saw the young lad in Pesth, does not look like a Hapsburg, but has as mild and open a face as his lovely mother, Elizabeth. Unfortunately his intellectual faculties are reported to be anything but bright. He takes but little interest in his studies, and is passionately fond of only one thing—music. He plays the violin and the piano. His favorite composer is Wagner, whose music he knows by heart. He makes him so great a favorite that the epic of the Nibelungen is a subscriber and advertiser from the start of the Commercial. Also, I beg myself second to no man in my love for Wagner's music, in principles of our great Republican party, and if her servants become corrupt, dishonest, and squander the public money, discharge them at once. Ask any music man what will be the result when Wagner's music and the new Pesth opera house are opened, and he will tell you that it will be by only a few months after the Suez canal. Even now the Pesth opera house is in the newspapers in the localities interested was all that was necessary. However, one thousand copies were ordered to be printed, the greater portion of which will probably find their way to the paper mills as waste paper.

There is reason to suppose that the quality of personal resemblance attributes Mr. Washburn, the New York *Times* correspondent, in the matter of the Banks-Grant-Vicksburg correspondence. That gentleman had the misfortune to be a near relative of Governor Grant, as he did Gen. and Burnside, as correspondent, so much so, that Grant on the 4th of July, last, issued an order directing "Mr. Wm. Swinton, a duly registered correspondent for the New York *Times*" be heard the doors for forwarding for publication *secret statements*." The order added that he should be sent under guard to headquarters if again found within the lines.

There are still working up a Vigilance Committee in New York. It is said that the leaders there the fire in California. Influential lawyers, merchants and property holders are interested with the movement, and help it with both advice and money. The whole thing has been practically elaborated. The members of the organization in the various wards are to detail persons who are acquainted with the notorious characters in the wards, to watch their headquarters, and, when they move out of their haunts, to follow them at such a distance that they can watch their actions and yet not be seen.

The New York *Sun* says "of course there will be petitions for the commutation" of the sentence of Twitchell, the murderer of Mrs. Hill. The Governor of Pennsylvania has no power to commute the death sentence. He can refuse to sign the death warrant, and postpone the execution after affixing his signature to the warrant, and this is all; the death sentence cannot be set aside by the Executive, but he can pardon a criminal outright.

THE THREE GREAT SOURCES OF PENNSYLVANIA'S WEALTH.

Report of the Philadelphia Board of Trade—Important Statistics.

The Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Philadelphia Board of Trade is replete with statistics, presenting a picture of prosperity of which any State might well be proud. The statistics relating to coal, iron and petroleum, the three great staples of the State, in particular will be found interesting. The total amount of anthracite coal sent to market during the past year shows an aggregate of 13,674,397 tons, an increase over 1867 of 1,161,854 tons, notwithstanding a long suspension of production in the Schuylkill region. The bituminous coal fields have been equally productive, although the estimates must be given with equal accuracy. The total production of coal is given at eighteen millions of tons, valued at the mine at $2.50 per ton, or $45,000,000 for the whole. The earnings of the various transportation lines added to this makes $45,000,000 at the State line, making an aggregate of $90,000,000 for this item.

The article of petroleum transcends in quantity all estimates. The export value at the port of shipment during the past year has been full $27,000,000. The report adds that were it not that the increasing production of the article has outrun the consumption, its intrinsic value would be greatly enhanced. That it advance known, would have been $200,000,000. The exports from New York for 1867 amounted to 33,834,132 gallons. From Philadelphia 20,627,429 gallons. The exports from New York during 1868 increased 19,000,000; from Philadelphia 11,000,000. The total exports of this article for 1868 reached the enormous amount of 90,281,000 gallons! which is distributed as follows: Philadelphia, 58,869,252 from New York and the remainder from other ports. The statistics show that the petroleum trade of Pennsylvania as measured by the exports of the article, has expanded from a little more than a million in 1861, to one hundred millions in 1868. The home consumption is estimated at about forty per cent. of the exports, making a total product of 140,000,000 gallons, or say of 2,333,000 barrels.

The rate of increase has been:

1861	gallons... 1,265,432
1862	3,056,789
1863	10,479,321
1864	29,564,321
1865	57,873,765
1866	79,564,321
1867	90,281,000
1868	140,000,000

The exact statistics of the iron production are not given. But from the returns received by the Secretary of the Iron and Steel Association, it appears that the production for the first quarter of last year in anticipation than the increase of half over 1866, which would indicate a production of pig iron amounting to 872,822 tons, or a product of manufactured iron of 600,000 tons, rails, rod, sheet, plate, loop, nails, etc., of 352,336 tons, valued at $60,000,000.

These values aggregate a total of:

Coal	$45,000,000
Petroleum	27,000,000
Iron	60,000,000
Total	$132,000,000

The magnitude of these figures will be appreciated all the more when compared with the total cotton products of the country, 2,300,000 bales, at $80 per bale, representing $176,000,000 as the most exclusive staple of eight States.

In reference to direct foreign trade from Philadelphia, the committee appointed by the board to consult with the Pennsylvania Central reported that a line of steamships to Liverpool would be placed in service at an early day. The report also expressed the hope that Philadelphia will be the terminus of the steamship line to North Germany. All that is necessary to secure this result, it is urged, is a sufficient degree of public interest and effort.

OBSTRUCTION OF THE OHIO RIVER.

Wide Span Bridges, and the Enlargement of the Canal at Louisville.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

At the present time there is a delegation of prominent coal merchants and others from this city before Congress urging the importance of wide spans for the bridges proposed across the Ohio river. The importance of this question has been frequently discussed in public meetings here and at other commercial points on the river, and the action of the coal men of this city, in sending a delegation to Washington will urge our vast coal and other river interests in this connection so that they will be duly considered by Congress.

While Pittsburgh is largely interested in railroads and feels benefited, even when it is necessary to bridge over navigable rivers, still she would desire to have bridges constructed which would not obstruct navigation, and which gives employment to thousands of her citizens and a return of millions to her revenue. The coal business on the Ohio, scarcely fifteen years in existence, now amounts to 20,000,000 bushels per annum, and Pittsburgh coal is burned on the Mississippi, in the Gulf of Mexico, and but lately we hear that it pays to take it to New York by water—a whole distance of five thousand miles.

These facts are astounding, and yet it seems that this rapidly increasing business is so endangered by the erection of bridge piers with spans three hundred feet apart, that, with the present low stage of water, the channel is obstructed to such an extent that, as has been contemplated, the time lost in running of boats and increased insurance will make it exceedingly doubtful whether coal could be sent down the Ohio river at all. Under such circumstances of five hundred feet will not seriously interfere with the navigation, and many of the most prominent engineers in the country have made preliminary railway bridges of that span, one of which is the magnificent structure now in course of erection at St. Louis.

Another matter of importance now is the enlargement of the canal at Louisville. We see by the *Post*, of yesterday, in consequence of the low stage of water, the work of enlargement and repairs, which should have been done in the summer months, has not been done, and will be delayed for months to come. This work should be done by the Local Work that we feel, in urging the claim, which has been made by the people of Louisville and Cincinnati, that the Government of the United States should appropriate $40,000 for the enlargement of the canal at Louisville, that the canal be made wide enough for two boats to pass each other, and while the city of Louisville (which has already subscribed $1,500,000 for this object, and the State of Kentucky $1,000,000) and the neighborhood, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Pittsburgh, and other cities, should contribute liberal donations and regularity in making the change of the locks.

Before the construction of a bridge at the falls, the question is fraught with more importance than the record making of the steamer Lexington on one of the rivers in Virginia is only the beginning of the list of casualties that will occur if the proper precautions are not observed, but which in this instance might be averted if greater facilities were afforded boats to pass.

While the Pacific and other railroad schemes are struggling for existence over fifteen hundred miles of navigable rivers are being improved, and the foundation is laid for the part of wise legislators to ignore the vast national avenues of inland navigation, which, look which we may on the Pacific coast, and which protects strongly against the manifest injuries they may receive.

X.

FROM ALTOONA.

The Allegheny Conference of the United Brethren in Christ.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

ALTOONA, January 30, 1869.

The Conference of the United Brethren in Christ commenced in this place on Wednesday last, J. B. Bexler being called to preside and Mr. Spangler chosen Secretary. Bishop Glossbrenner, of Baltimore, was present.

On Thursday Conference listened to the report of the Committee on Boundaries, which was adopted. Rev. Mr. Hoffman, Rev. Mr. Mowry and Rev. Mr. Curry, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, were admitted as advisory members, also Rev. Mr. Baker, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The next thing in order was the report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools. The cause of Sabbath schools was discussed at length, and in a manner which will, no doubt, contribute much to their future success. Rev. Mr. Hoffman, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who has developed a taste for artistic matters, used to be a reporter on the New York *Press*, and a few years ago published a very interesting book of New York sketches. His life of Grant is unquestionably the ablest, brilliant volume ever written on the subject by an American, and the second volume is anxiously looked for by those who have read the first. The Rev. Mr. Hoffman has been somewhat disappointed in the sale of his book so far, but it is a work of lasting value, and will, without doubt, insure them heavy profits in the future.

STATE NEWS.

Mr. C. C. Donohue, of Titusville, who was so fearfully injured by the railroad accident at Port Jervis, nearly a year ago, has commenced suit against the New York and Erie Railroad Company, laying his damages at $100,000. Such a claim rendered three thousand dollars by the company for settlement.

Governor Geary has reappointed Charles M. Reed a justice of the peace for Washington county.

Joseph McKeall, Esq., the oldest Mason in the United States, died at the residence of his son, Hon. P. McKeall, in Erie, on Wednesday last, in the ninety-fourth year of his age. Mr. McKeall was born in Massachusetts, but early in life he removed to Vermont, in which State he primed of his life was spent—removing to Erie a few years before his death. His mind was clear and bright to the last, and his recollections of the past were exceedingly vivid. His intercourse with Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Jay and all the founders of the republic, in 1794, and had all the freshness of a narrative of yesterday.

Asa Packer is said to be worth $20,000,000, and is the richest man in Pennsylvania.

The proposition to increase the State tax on coal companies is denounced as a "pinch" game in the Scranton *Republican*.

Dr. Dodge, an itinerant physician, was run over and instantly killed by a train on the Pennsylvania Railroad at Perrysville, Juniata county, on Friday night.

A paper mill in which was manufactured paper used by Benjamin Franklin in his office, is still in operation in Lower Merion township. It is called the Joy Mill, and was erected as early as 1711.

Citizens of the upper part of Columbia county are circulating petitions in favor of a new county.

Davis H. Messinger, recently postmaster at Spartanburg, has been fined in $2,500 for alleged defalcation in his accounts.

Mr. J. D. Wallace, of Columbia county, claims $15,000 damages from the State on account of the burning of the Orphans' School from Orangeville, in that county.

Many citizens of Carbon county are agitating for the removal of the county seat from Mauch Chunk to some point at or near the vicinity of Penn Haven Junction. There is no doubt but the only the beginning of the list of casualties that will occur if the proper precautions are not observed, but which in this instance might be averted if greater facilities were afforded boats to pass.

While the Pacific and other railroad schemes are struggling for existence over fifteen hundred miles of navigable rivers are being improved, and the foundation is laid for the part of wise legislators to ignore the vast national avenues of inland navigation, which, look which we may on the Pacific coast, and which protects strongly against the manifest injuries they may receive.

X.

FROM ALTOONA.

The Allegheny Conference of the United Brethren in Christ.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

ALTOONA, January 30, 1869.

The Conference of the United Brethren in Christ commenced in this place on Wednesday last, J. B. Bexler being called to preside and Mr. Spangler chosen Secretary. Bishop Glossbrenner, of Baltimore, was present.

On Thursday Conference listened to the report of the Committee on Boundaries, which was adopted. Rev. Mr. Hoffman, Rev. Mr. Mowry and Rev. Mr. Curry, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, were admitted as advisory members, also Rev. Mr. Baker, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The next thing in order was the report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools. The cause of Sabbath schools was discussed at length, and in a manner which will, no doubt, contribute much to their future success. Rev. Mr. Hoffman, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who has developed a taste for artistic matters, used to be a reporter on the New York *Press*, and a few years ago published a very interesting book of New York sketches. His life of Grant is unquestionably the ablest, brilliant volume ever written on the subject by an American, and the second volume is anxiously looked for by those who have read the first. The Rev. Mr. Hoffman has been somewhat disappointed in the sale of his book so far, but it is a work of lasting value, and will, without doubt, insure them heavy profits in the future.

France and the United States.

The annual expenses of Great Britain, with its debt funded at three per cent. are $350,000,000; those of France are, at the very least, $800,000,000. Each power is of great importance to the commercial interest. It will further more be a cause of rejoicing to every lover of peace to see that the United States are turning their attention more towards having such facilities for the transportation of their products by railroad and canal, and thus relieve the church of the necessity of employing men in the ministry who have no other qualifications for the work than a smattering of Latin and Greek. The establishment of this Conference is certainly flourishing, and the prospects for the future are bright and very happy results. The following are some of the important resolutions of that Conference:

Resolved, That it is the duty of our church at the present time to establish as much as possible a thoroughly practical education in the common school, and that until this is done the church must suffer loss not to be computed by money.

Resolved, That we recommend to the General Conference the propriety of constituting a board of education, to the end that young men in their education with a view to the ministry.

The following persons were licensed to preach by this Conference:

J. Glass, H. Woodward, J. W. Ewing, J. Felix, and H. Walt.

Conference adjourned to meet at 8½ o'clock Monday.

I. Potter preached to a large and attentive congregation at 7½ o'clock P. M.

Bishop Glossbrenner preached sabbath morning at 10½ o'clock, and W. B. Baber at 7½ o'clock in the evening.

The proceedings of to-day were interesting, and the spirit of the meeting a part of the time, however, was employed in discussions with reference to our different schools of education.

FRIEND.

The New York *Times* says: "We hear that horses are now seized with a disease that makes them useless. In this city have succumbed to the disease, which is so rapid in its effects that the suffering horse rarely survives the first symptoms of the malady more than twenty-four hours. The trouble in its general characteristics is not unlike that which played such havoc among the Texan beeves."

The Philadelphia *Bulletin* says: Messrs. Roger Brothers, of New York, propose to transfer four steamships, the Northern Light, Ariel, and two others, to this port, and to run them regularly, for freight and passengers, between Philadelphia and Bremen. It is proposed to ask for temporary aid from the Pennsylvania Legislature, in the shape of a subsidy of five thousand dollars per round trip, for the first year, the trips not to exceed fifteen in number

WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR?

A Plain Talk to Our Girls.

"Girls are constitutionally wise. I'm in favor of them having the much coveted privilege of helping us 'lords of creation' to swell the votes at our next Presidential campaign. Tell me they wouldn't make first rate Congressmen or any other class of men, if they could only don the same kind of harness we wear—boots, pantaloons, short tail coats, and all the paraphernalia of a respectable gentleman's wardrobe, thereby to save themselves the disagreeable duty of reseeing lengthy trails from the dirt and filth of our common streets, should they be so unfortunate as to get mixed up in some drunken brawl or promiscuous fist fight whilst dancing attendance at the polls on election days. Whew! I fancy I see my mother and sisters in that enviable predicament now, and would draw a curtain over the picture, I repeat, how wise is the feminine gender, and what wonderful workers we find in it now and then. I read of a woman once who did a washing, brewed, baked, made a cheese, and read the Bible through, all in one day. Heard of another, also, who patiently labored several years at rubbing a crowbar on a stone trying to make a needle of it. But the most recent prodigy of wisdom, and topographical knowledge particularly, came under my own observation the other day. I refer to Mrs. B.'s intimate young lady friend, lately arrived to spend a few days with her. Now, when at home, according to her own statement, in Rockbridge county, Virginia, within a few miles of the Natural Bridge. Well, when interrogated one evening as to the appearance of that structure, she astounded the company present with this naive reply: 'Oh! I suppose it did excite a little curiosity, when it was first put up, but it's been built so long now, that it's quite an old story with us down there, and I never cared about going to see it.'

"Thus you see——"

But some new thought seemed to seize upon Cousin Ned's fancy just then, for he ran out of the parlor and bounded up the stairs, three at a time, I should judge, merrily singing.

Tell me, ye winged winds, that round my Adeline sweep,
Bear my sighs on your pinions to her dwelling place.

The rest died away in the distance along with his retreating footsteps, and I was left to my own reflection upon the great question Ned's melody had called up in my mind. What are misses of our girls good for?

Mother Goose, I think, has handed down to us the most satisfactory answer, in that quaint nursery rhyme, which says:

"To sit on a cushion and sew a fine seam,
And feed upon straw berries, sugar and cream."

Two-thirds of my acquaintances at least, who have finished their educations in some one of our popular boarding schools, have returned to their respective homes, not strong, intellectual, kind-hearted girls, ready to relieve their overburdened mothers of any of their numerous cares, but to add to them instead, by doing nothing to make themselves useful, and professing a violent distaste and utter ignorance of anything bordering on domestic employments. Whenever I think of the Female Life Insurance Company of Pennsylvania.

Incorporating the Central Passenger Railway Company of Pittsburgh, running from Fourth avenue and Market on Fourth avenue, Fifth, Wylie, Fulton and Center avenue to East Liberty; capital $50,000.

Repealing so much of the second section of the act of April 13, 1868, imposing certain taxes in Sharpsburg, Allegheny county, as relates to school taxes.

Defining and extending the equity jurisdiction of the Allegheny County District Court, and validating certain proceedings in partition thereof.

Authorizing the Venango County Commissions to collect additional county taxes.

Abolishing constables' returns to the Court in Fayette.

Authorizing the Guardians of the Poor of Pittsburgh to increase the Treasurer's securities.

Increasing the pay of Commissioners, Auditors, Supervisors and Assessors in Fayette county.

Authorizing fourteen additional notaries public in Allegheny county.

Changing the time of commencement of the term of Sheriff in Allegheny county to the first Monday in January.

Authorizing the First Reformed Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, to remove the bodies from the burying ground attached to the building and sell the property.

Increasing the capital of the Springfield Gas Company to $50,000.

Authorizing the Jones Ferry, Allegheny county, to make another landing.

Authorizing the Carrier Seminary to borrow money.

Repealing the second section of the act of 1868, relative to election precincts in Allegheny county.

State Librarian.

A communication was received from the Governor nominating Wien Forney for State Librarian for the next three years.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. Graham—Relative to municipal lines in Allegheny City; relative to certain ordinances in Allegheny: authoring East Birmingham to grade streets, &c., and collect the costs thereof; authorizing East Birmingham to exempt its coupon bonds from municipal taxation, and levy a tax for maintaining a fire department; authorising Bellevue borough to levy an extra tax and prohibit the sale of liquor; incorporating the Pittsburgh Gas Company; annulling the trust by H. H. Thompson, of Allegheny, to Thomas B. Hamilton, April 8th, 1865.

HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 2, 1869.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Divorce.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill divorcing William Magill and his wife Lavinia, of Pittsburgh.

Bills Passed Finally.

Supplement to State road from Tarentum to Goech's, Allegheny.

Empowering the Common Pleas of Venango to open judgment against W. A. Hall, tax collector in Cornplanter township.

Authorizing Etna borough, Allegheny, to borrow money and levy a tax.

Changing of time of holding elections in Warren county to the day of the general election.

Securing farmers and unsuspecting classes in Erie county against fraud in the sale of patent rights.

Preventing the destruction of oil-producing wells by water from non-producing or unfinished wells in Venango. Passed to second reading.

Objected off the Calendar.

Mr. Hong, of Pittsburgh, objected off the calendar the supplement authorizing the Guardians of the Poor of Pittsburgh to increase the securities of their treasurer.

The Editors' Convention.

On motion of Mr. Brown, of Clarion, the use of the House was tendered to the Pennsylvania editorial convention this afternoon.

On motion of Mr. Cornman, of Cumberland, the members of the editorial convention were invited to seats on the floor of the House.

SENATE.

The Senate met this afternoon, Speaker Worthington being absent, Mr. Errett presided.

Mr. White objected off the calendar the bill paying damages awarded to the Allegheny County Agricultural Society, under act April 15th, 1868.

Bills Passed Finally.

Consolidating the wards of Pittsburgh for educational purposes.

Extending the Venango road laws to Forrest county.

Relative to public roads in Penn township, Allegheny county.

Extending the vehicle license act of Pittsburgh to Etna borough.

Changing the name of the Pittsburgh Ale and Malt Company Company to the Joshua Rhodes Ale Company, and reducing the capital to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Supplement authorizing the Fifth ward School Directors of Allegheny City to borrow an additional thirty thousand dollars.

Supplement concerning streets and sewers in Pittsburgh, which authorizes the vacation of useless streets.

Supplement for Ewalt street bridge, which extends the time for completion two years, and authorizing a further loan of thirty thousand dollars.

Confirming the sale of a portion of the Greensburg and Pittsburgh turnpike, and providing for the distribution of the proceeds.

Incorporating Iron City Mutual Life Insurance Company of Pennsylvania.

Repealing the Central Passenger Railway Company of Pittsburgh, running from Fourth avenue and Market on Fourth avenue, Fifth, Wylie, Fulton and Center avenue to East Liberty; capital $50,000.

Repealing so much of the second section of the act of April 13, 1868, imposing certain taxes in Sharpsburg, Allegheny county, as relates to school taxes.

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Bills Introduced.

Mr. Graham—Relative to munic

Weekly Commercial.

THE OIL REGIONS.

Petroleum Affairs Generally.

The Production and Development in and Around Oil City.

Oil City, Pa., January 30, 1869.

The commanding figure of seven dollars per barrel for oil has been reached, and as a consequence Petrolia is infused with renewed energy. Whether this price can be maintained, the present week will determine. Should the price of petroleum it does not propose to fix one iota, so long as the present demand continues, the producer certainly has no cause to complain. Steadily developments have been greatly stimulated, and wells above the valley of oil creek are being examined and prepared for pumping, while in places preparations have been made to drill more wells, in localities where they have not been established. Now all facts are also receiving the attention of capitalists. The most prominent among these at present are the lands adjoining or bordering on oil creek. As explained in a former letter, the principal oil fields are located on the lands of the United Petroleum Farm Association, now the Warren and Franklin Company, and bordering upon the borough limits, proceeding either further northward or southward. Of the former section little has been let in the immediate vicinity during the past week.

Developments on Cherry Run are progressing in a highly satisfactory manner. The Cherry Run Company, on the west side of the stream, has completed a well 500 feet, and was agreeably surprised at the evidence of premium oil in the sands, at least three are not more than one or two exceptions, are now on Cherry Run, during the present excitement, have proved productive of good wells. There are at present the following producing wells: Hasson Well No. 1 commenced producing one inch, flowing at the rate of 10 barrels per day; Hasson Well No. 2 commenced flowing 2 inches per day, and is now flowing from seven to eight per day; Hasson Well No. 3 commenced flowing 50 barrels per day, and is now flowing from seven to eight per day; Hasson Well No. 4 commenced flowing 100 barrels per day, and is now flowing from seven to eight per day; Hasson Well No. 5 commenced flowing 100 barrels per day, and is now flowing from seven to eight per day. Aforesaid wells are owned by the Cherry Run Company, and are generally considered good wells. The Hasson well No. 4 is the best of the number, and is estimated at fifty barrels per day. The Hasson well No. 5 is the next best, and is estimated at fifty barrels per day. The Hasson well No. 3 is the next best, and is estimated at forty barrels per day. The Hasson well No. 2 is the next best, and is estimated at thirty barrels per day. The Hasson well No. 1 is the next best, and is estimated at twen

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, February 6, 1869.

...eekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1869.

TERMS.

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A WORD WITH A CORRESPONDENT.

Since the Commission engaged in exposing the extravagance and corruption at Harrisburg, we have received a good many letters, some of them private, others evidently designed for publication. Of the latter class we have printed a number; the others have been met with many thanks to the writers, and they will be gratefully treasured for the words of approval and encouragement they contain. But the letters we receive are not all of an approbatory character. As a sample of those that are not, we print the following:

"Mr. Editor, I consider the...

A SERIOUS PROPOSITION.

The resolution introduced in the Senate by General Hoarse Wagon, instructing the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform to examine into the manner of conducting the several departments in the State Government, with the view of instituting reform, cannot fail to be regarded with universal favor. There never was a time in the history of our country when the people were more earnestly bent upon economy and economy. Everywhere the disposition is apparent; in the counting-room, sitting-room, workshop and kitchen; on the fast, dock and great public thoroughfares, retrenchment is the leading desire and aim. The same reasons which govern the cautious merchant, chiefly former and shrewd sailing masters apply with equal force to the management of public affairs. When merchants and manufacturers find it necessary to exercise the utmost forethought and vigilance in shaping their affairs suit the changed times, those who have the control of the State government cannot do their duty and not retrench. A refusal on their part to be guided by the experience and wisdom of others in the management of the private affairs of life will be viewed as inexcusable unfaithfulness.

Within the past few years the expenses of the State Government have doubled. Numerous employees have been added to the public service. In many instances the increase was demanded by the exigencies of the times, but these exigencies having ceased to exist, retrenchment must follow. The occurrences of the last few years cannot and the duty of State for beyond her former moorings, and now that the tide is retreating, it is the office of those who manage our affairs to see that the State back in safety.

Mr. Warren's resolution is opportune. The people, whose eyes are directed towards Harrisburg, will feel no little interest in what is done under it. For the time being, they regard the Legislature pretty much as a patient regards the surgeon who is called in to relieve him of a tumor or other fearful...

THE FATAL COURSE.

The free country papers that have been almost perse...cuted for defending the Constitution and the liberties of the people, are now defending the usurpations of the Executive. At the opening of the present session, without waiting a day, and before there was any work to be done, he caused the number to sixty-one. The sole reason for this increase was, no that thirty-four were not enough to do all the work, but solely because thirty-four officers could not be divided equally between sixty-one members. By increasing the original number twenty-seven, each Republican member would have an officer to appoint. We call this a perfectly indefensible proceeding, with which the Republican party should not be saddled. It is simply the unpardonable act of the indicted ex-members, which Republicans everywhere repudiate. If any portion of the Republican press of the State think the proceeding right, let them defend it the best they can. If on this point they are not doubtful, as we ask, is it probable that the Republican party will be likely to throw well under the responsibility? We have a notion that they who manifest a disposition to defend or excuse the proceeding evince neither good leadership nor a nice sense of honor or honesty. We have no idea that the Republican party can thrive under such frauds, and in our judgment there is but one course to pursue, and that is, the proceeding being wrong, the Republicans in the Legislature must be appealed to right it, and in case they refuse or fail to do so, they must be repudiated. Leaving out of the question the moral aspect of the case, every consideration of party policy commands this course. If we cannot do right in comparatively small things, how can we hope to be trusted in great matters? We beg our friends in the Legislature not to allow their eyes to this matter, nor attempt to delude themselves that we put it in too strong a light.

Secretary Seward's agents seem to be...

THE SUPPRESSION OF GEN. GRANT AT VICKSBURG.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune* furnishes the following explanation of its recent statement, that Gen. Banks was ordered to supersede Gen. Grant at Vicksburg:

...

A FIFTY YEARS' LEAK DISCOVERED.

One of the most wonderful discoveries of modern times has just been made at Washington. The discovery is one BENJAMIN BUTLER. The thing discovered is a Crypt. The discovery was more of an accident than BUTLER likes to have it understood. It was brought about in the following manner. BUTLER was checking off the various items under the head of appropriations. An appropriation for the "Superintendent of the Crypt" excited his curiosity. He nudged his fellow members, pointed to the item, but no one knew anything about it. They knew it was customary to "allow" it. BUTLER drew down among the bills as far back as the memory of man runneth, and found the Crypt was *at least fifty years* old, maybe as old as Methuselah. Then he found the Superintendent, who told a straightforward story. Congress passed a bill shortly after WASHINGTON died providing for the building of a vault beneath the capitol to hold the remains of the immortal statesman and warrior, to be called the Crypt. Having built it, a man was hired to watch the sacred spot. According to the statement of the Superintendent, his duties were to sit near the Crypt daily from 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. to see that only one gas burner was used. He has been employed in this useful occupation precisely forty years. Talk about the shade of the grand Lama, the venerable Vishnu or Sacred Geese after this! Butler has begun to move on the old leak. Just how we are moved to imagine if it is possible there is a Crypt at Harrisburg. It would be well to suggest an inquiry. It would be of some degree of satisfaction to the tax payers if they were only sure that only *one* man with a clay pipe in his mouth was employed to watch a single gas burner.

The remarks of Gen. WHITE, in the Senate at Harrisburg, on moving his resolution of inquiry into the expenses of the State government with a view to thorough retrenchment, conveys the gratifying assurance that he at least "means business." In initiating this measure, Gen. WHITE has not only shown that he has a clear view of what is expedient and politic in a party sense, but he has evinced practical statesmanship of a first rate order. The wise legislator and practical statesman will be quick to recognize the obligations imposed by passages such as have marked our history for the past half dozen years, will rise superior to all petty and narrow considerations and motives, and adapt his action to the great necessities resulting from great events revolutionizing previous methods and offering all ideas. Gen. WHITE's resolution is a timely response to the popular demand for searching reform. We have no reason to suppose that Gen. WHITE's Republican colleagues on the Committee are less in earnest, and the intimation which the opposition have already imparted to the Committee, of making the investigation a white washing affair, is supported by no circumstance or fact. We have every reason to believe that it will be in every respect what it should be.

The editor of the Greenville, Mercer county, *Argus*, who has held a fat position in the State Senate for a number of years, and still enjoys it, comes to the relief of the pastors and leaders. His argument is of a piece with the poor excuse of members for voting for the increase of officers. He gives the items of work to be performed by the pastors and leaders, from which it appears that the aggregate number of documents that pass through their hands during a session is 600,000, or an average of 6,500 per day. The *Argus* says:

...

The London *Standard* thinks "this Conference has been called as if the question of peace between Greece and Turkey involved any great affecting the Treaty of Paris, and will, no doubt, meeting under such false pretenses, be found to be a very harmless assembly, and nothing more than to dispatch and letter Turkey and give confidence to Greece."

It is evident that whoever have sympathy to bestow upon the Greeks, the English are not over-burdened with it. Nor is the cold official demeanor was foreseen in its expression of sympathy for the "down trodden" Greeks. Now that they have wearied of fighting other people's battles, they will be supplied, it seems, by romantic Americans.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY OF THE COMMERCIAL.

Retrenchment and Reform Demanded.

NEW CASTLE, PA., JANUARY 27, 1869.
To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The course of the COMMERCIAL in denouncing the extravagance and waste of the people's money at Harrisburg meets with the approbation of this entire community. Why will our members not see that the people are going to take this thing in hand? It was all very well while the war was going on, and money plenty, and everybody willing to assist in any way to save our country, but now they want a change and *will have it*. If the men sent to Harrisburg this winter will not carry out the wishes of the people, then we will send others next winter who will. It is not the fault of the Republican party that we do not have reform; but the party will get all the blame of it—therefore it behooves every member of the party to look after their public servants, and if they will not carry out the wishes of the people, then they should be removed, and others put in their places who will. Let us all look to this. It is the business of every one to see that the man he casts his ballot for is in favor of reform. The legislative taxes for the carrying on of the government are heavy enough, and hard enough to be borne, but these the people are willing to pay; unnecessary extravagance they are not willing to pay.

While we were all making money freely we were willing to submit to it, but now that we have to make and not easily get at, we must look after the expenditures. Again we would commend the course the COMMERCIAL has taken in the matter, and wish you God speed.

A FRIEND.

...

Management of Railroads in Ohio.

There is a bill pending in the Ohio Legislature providing for the internal management of railroads, which provides that no person shall be eligible for President, Vice President or as a Director of any railroad company who has not been a resident of Ohio or the State and the county through which said railroad runs for more than one year, and who does not own less than one hundred shares of the capital stock of the company. Every stockholder is required to own his stock at least thirty days before voting at any election. All meetings of stockholders and directors must be held at the principal office of the company; all dividends shall be declared and made payable in cash only, and no dividend shall be declared except from net earnings. The office of the treasurer of a company must be at the principal office. Any director or proxy making a false statement as to the ownership of stock shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof shall be imprisoned not more than two years nor less than six months.

The peculiar institution of Utah must be a success or a failure. If it survives the bill prepared by Senator CRAGIN, and other things the bill provides that only citizens of the United States shall be competent to act as grand and petit jurors, that all commissioners and superintendents of elections, appointed by Brigham Young, shall cease, that no man shall take unto himself more than one wife, and that it shall be unlawful for the officers and members of any church to perform the rites of divorce or solemnize marriages. In all of these matters, the people of Utah should be compelled to yield to the same laws that govern the rest of the country. *Dancers* should not be allowed to perform in the streets, nor nearly when denied to another. Still, it would be wisdom to bring the followers of Brigham Young under the civil law, if possible, without interfering with their religious belief or worship. One of the speediest ways of adding to the growth of a creed is to trample upon it. This has been demonstrated a thousand times. No matter how preposterous or absurd the religion, injustice or intolerance only renders it the stronger or more dangerous. One or two railways running through Utah in time would settle the Mormon question more effectually than all the laws that could be devised. Brigham Young's power is already waning. It would be well to adopt a line of "masterly inactivity" in regard to the management of the Mormon Church.

The Sacramento *Union* describes the recent wedding of Chinese at Unionville, in that State. A large mill owner employed a number of Chinese to assist him in his mining operations. The marriage ceremony gave offense to the "civilized" Americans. They therefore concluded to expel them from the valley. The mob assembled early one morning, marched from a considerable distance, marched down the main street of the town, attacked the houses occupied by the poor Chinese, threw out all their effects into a wagon, aimed their guns at the inhabitants in default of their cruelty, and marched them out to starve or leave the country the best way they could. These "Americans" were foreigners. There was not a native citizen of the United States in the number. The mob was composed exclusively of Germans, Irish and Englishmen.

The California press is severe on the citizens of Unionville for permitting the "mob" to enter the place for the sole purpose of turning thirty Chinamen adrift amid the sage brush at Mill City, in the midst of winter, with nothing but their blankets to protect them from the weather. Would it not be well to employ Chinamen to act as missionaries in California?

The residents of Chicago have been indulging recently in speculations concerning the practical use of the river tunnel not unlike those attributed to Jefferson, who, it is said, proposed to plant a mill on the water-fall, with a splendid chute for the lumber, but overlooked the labor of lifting the logs up to the mill. After completing the tunnel twelve months, and it was estimated, Chicagoans delight to try whether a heavily loaded team could be driven through the Washington street tunnel. The question was settled satisfactorily the other day in the presence of a number of people, several Commissioners, fragments of Boards, whole Boards and no end of brass bands. Since, Chicago has slept more soundly than ever.

The velocipede mania has become general. In Chicago they have a "rink" where the celebrities exercise themselves at the expense of four dollars per week. In New York, Boston and Philadelphia the velocipeds have made their appearance on the streets, and no longer attract unusual attention. There are no less than forty new velocipedes under way, and the new and fashionable mode of locomotion bids fair in some quarters to revolutionize the livery business. It will be strange indeed if the American people permit themselves to be outstripped in the race by a wooden horse, and stranger still if the wooden horse distances the high-stepping thoroughbreds.

...

A CHICAGO Intercoastic Hotel Company are seeking a charter from the Illinois Legislature. The title is suggestive. Nothing less comprehensive would suit Chicago, and we presume the project contemplates an achievement that will not ridicule the title.

...

The London *Globe* says:

"A European war would have very serious calamitous consequences, and it is impossible to contemplate the possibility of it without a shudder. Happily, the present aspect of affairs is more reassuring than it has been for some time past. The Congress of Paris has been sitting for a week, and the representatives of the Powers have had ample opportunity of discussing the various questions which have given rise to so much anxiety. We believe that the Conference will be brought to a close in a few days, and that the result will be the maintenance of peace. Russia has declared that she has no intention of violating the treaty of 1856, and the Powers have accepted her assurance. Under these circumstances, it is to be hoped that the Conference will not separate without coming to some decision as to the Greek question, which is the only one that can possibly lead to a rupture between the Powers. We have every reason to believe that the Conference will not separate without coming to some decision as to the Greek question, which is the only one that can possibly lead to a rupture between the Powers. We have every reason to believe that it will be in every respect what it should be."

...

The London *Herald* thinks that "Greece, by her line of action, has probably ruined the Conference, and in the end will earned intervention of the neutral powers."

The London *News* of the 19th says:

"The European representatives at the Paris Conference have not yet arrived at any decision upon such questions as the Greek difficulty, but it is understood that a determination of them could be arrived at without much delay. The Ministers of the Powers would have no difficulty in coming to an agreement if they were left to themselves, but they have to consult their Governments, and this causes delay. The Greek question is the most difficult of those which have to be settled, and it is probable that the Conference will not separate until it has arrived at a decision upon it. The Ministers of the Powers have had ample opportunity of discussing the various questions which have given rise to so much anxiety. We believe that the Conference will be brought to a close in a few days, and that the result will be the maintenance of peace. Russia has declared that she has no intention of violating the treaty of 1856, and the Powers have accepted her assurance. Under these circumstances, it is to be hoped